Three articles, illustrating the attitude of the National Socialists to the intellectuals and the scientists, and their brutal treatment of the Jews.

German Undercurrents

I. Those Wretched Intellectuals

By Joseph Goebbels

Translated from the *Völkischer Beobachter*, Munich Official National Socialist Daily

WE HAVE frequently been requested to give a precise definition of an intellectual, in order to clarify the basis of our attacks against intellectualism, which have led to some misunderstanding and resentment. We shall now describe the type of intellectual who, in our opinion, deserves condemnation.

First of all, we must emphasize that we do not refer to the sincere brain-worker who places his knowledge, ability and experience at the service of the nation. Such genuine brain workers make up the German intelligence. There is, however, a sharp distinction between intelligence of this type and intellectualism. Not everyone possessed of learning and ability is an intellectual, who may be defined as an educated person whose courage is in inverse ratio to his knowledge. He has roots in our former misguided and mistaken system of education. Actually, such an intellectual is nothing but a collection of knowledge artificially cultivated by means of intellectual exercises. His influence is more pernicious than that of the simple ignoramus, since he cannot be as easily detected. The intellectual dresses up cowardice as wisdom, lack of judgment as impartiality, arrogance as courage and lack of firmness as superior insight.

He is especially dangerous in Germany because the German people have a particular fondness for these virtues, though only when they are real. We have nothing whatever against an intelligent, educated man, working and fighting for the life and liberty of his people. All such men are today to be found in the ranks of National Socialism or pride themselves on being its enthusiastic followers.

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The objectionable intellectual possesses as little idealism as wisdom or reasoning, and, despite his shrewd demeanor, is actually a short-sighted coward. That is why he is frequently so irritating. He insists that knowledge, education and position can be acquired only in the manner in which he has acquired them. Anyone daring to follow other paths he regards as an outsider, to be rejected, criticized and opposed.

In quiet times, intellectuals are quite harmless, but when political developments sharpen into crises, they represent a certain danger. Then they band together in gangs, as though they were following a herd instinct. Lacking the instinct to recognize and judge a critical situation, they take refuge in their superficial, so-called education, for the purpose of explaining and justifying their fears to themselves and to others.

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These intellectuals make up a large part of that one per cent which still responds, and in all probability will continue to respond, with a 'No!' to National Socialism and to the work of the Führer. We have no intention of winning them over. It is not that we cannot, but that we do not desire to do so. They would only represent an unnecessary burden.

Intellectuals recognize each other instantly. They have, as it were, some sort of secret understanding. Perhaps their most brazen gesture is their appeal to the people against us. They know nothing whatever of the people, have no inner connection with them, and at heart despise them.

In all times of crisis, they invariably cower in so-called higher society, call each other up on the telephone, write letters to each other, and compose long-winded memoranda, which they submit to high places. These memoranda deal eloquently and at length with the current crisis, but they are easily recognizable as the expression of their cowardice. They are unable to pull themselves together and look danger straight in the face. They have, however, always managed to survive.

So-called high society abounds in intellectuals. They invariably ally themselves with the type of parasitic idler who acts like an emetic upon any creative individual. In a metropolis like Berlin this noble species of contemporary life can hardly be represented by more than one thousand individuals. They talk big. They batten on rumors. They treat their servants like dirt and they regard it as far beneath their dignity to exchange a civil word with a mere representative of the people.

Though we are not members of high society, we have come to amount to something just the same. That is against all the rules. It simply is not done. In their innermost hearts they regard us as plebeians and upstarts. Oh, yes indeed, we know them well! They see the achievements of the National Socialist régime not as the result of courage and intelligence, but as springing from luck and chance. They are tactless, stupid and ungrateful. They are dependent for their living on National Socialism, and do business with it, but they reject it just the same. There is no place in their cowardly hearts for a great political passion, and they also lack the courage to make up an effective opposition. They are nothing but a

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gang of garrulous, loafing, parasitic society people. How glorious in contrast is our German people and our great National Socialist movement!

All this had to be said once to give truth its due.

II. Hands off Science!

By Ferdinand Sauerbruch

Translated from *Stahl und Eisen*, Düsseldorf Organ of the Heavy Industry

ATTEMPTS by the State or by industry to organize and develop research along unified lines, in order to avoid unnecessary waste and duplication, are to be welcomed. The most striking contemporary instance of large-scale technical planning geared to pioneer scientific research is the German Four-Year Plan, which to some degree extends to all fields of our professional work. In addition to this purely functional research, however, there is another, unhampered by the special requirements of industry. Nor should a general psychological factor in research be overlooked. *Even highly gifted scientists cannot be expected to find creative and far-reaching solutions to their problems if they are too heavily shackled by a system dominated by practical considerations far removed from pure science.* [*All italics ours.*—The Editors] We all know from experience that inventors are queer people, but we need them!

No one who admires the success and achievements of a man or an enterprise should lose his respect for the secret of creative ability. *Great accomplishment does not come by command. It needs the free air of independence—freedom from interference by non-scientific influences. This belief in the freedom of the spirit forms the basis of all scientific progress*, and it counteracts the narrow-minded materialism with which science has often been charged, whenever it has fallen under the thrall of industry.

For real insight into the nature of creative work, upon which scientific advance rests, quickly reveals forces at work which transcend the limit of ordinary knowledge and organization, and reach into the metaphysical regions of the human soul. *The sole function of organization and of the State should be to search out these forces, to mobilize them and to see that they are effectively applied. Constant, repeated interference with this organic process of calm scientific inquiry would be a sign of shortsightedness and suspicion for which experience offers no justification.* The history of science clearly shows that industry derives its strongest impetus from inventions made entirely beyond the considerations of immediate usefulness. Faraday had no thought of the electric motor, nor Hertz of radio, [*Note that Professor Sauerbruch here cites a Jewish physicist.*—The Editors] yet the electric industries could never have reached their present state of development, except for the men who, under no compulsion whatever, solely from their innermost urging, penetrated into new fields of knowledge.

We do not deny that there is need for purely industrial research today. Industry often confronts science with

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